(b) Agriculture being a State subject, the production and distribution of seed is the responsibility of the State Government through their Department of Agriculture, State Seed Corporations, State Seed Farms, Cooperative Agencies, Agro-Industry Corporations, Private Seed Producers etc. However, the efforts of State Government are supplemented by two national level Seed Producing Organisations like National Seeds Corporation (NSC) and State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI). As per information provided by Sunflower growing States during Zonal Seed Review meeting, which is held every year, there is no shortage of Sunflower Seed & sufficient quantity of seed was made available for distribution to the farmers.

(c) The Government is providing financial assistance under Oilseed Production Programmes (OPP) for production of Sunflower Seeds to the State Governments. The State Governments as well as seed producing agencies are producing sufficient quantity of Sunflower Seed to meet the demands of the farmers.

Falling prices of Agricultural products in Karnataka

1326. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that due to globalization and WTO conditionalities, the prices of many agricultural products were collapsing in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to protect the interests of farmers of that State, to minimize the negative affects of WTO conditionalities on farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO N ARAYAN YADA V): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Growth of Agriculture Sector

1327. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the recommendation of the Working Group of the Planning Commission, an investment of Rs. 736,570 crore in the farm sector would be needed during the Tenth Five Year Plan, to achieve planned growth of 4 per cent;